

Amendments to the Abstract

Please substitute the following abstract for the pending abstract.

The present invention relates to a method for detecting biopolymers in a matrix, which includes contacting the matrix with a sensitizing reagent including on one or more optionally substituted heteroaromatic compounds; contacting the matrix with one or more reduceable metal salts to stain the biopolymer; and detecting the stained biopolymer. The invention also relates to compositions for carrying out the invention and compositions made according to the invention. The invention also relates to kits for carrying out the methods of the invention.

A copy of this abstract is appended herewith on a separate sheet.